



Safe Access For Everyone (SAFE)

The SAFE program focuses on accessible pedestrian networks with the primary objective of achieving ADA compliance and safe routes to school while increasing connectivity and access in the City of Milwaukie.



WHAT IS SAFE?

Safe Access for Everyone (SAFE) is a plan to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout Milwaukie, and identify possible funding sources to accomplish the plan. Working with the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), a citizen committee with representation from all neighborhood district associations, frequently-used corridors that provide access to critical facilities and facilitate routes to school were given priority.

WHY IS THIS PLAN NEEDED?

The city conducted an inventory of all city sidewalks and ramps to catalog Milwaukie's pedestrian routes and their compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The inventory highlighted that out of the existing 947 ADA ramps along the priority corridors, only about 21 percent comply with federal ADA standards. Furthermore, 298 new ramps need to be constructed along the priority corridors to provide safe and convenient access for people using mobility aids. This means a total of 1,245 ramps must be constructed to meet ADA standards within priority corridors to bring Milwaukie into compliance with federal requirements. In addition to the ADA ramps, 189,540 feet of walkways must be constructed to reach ADA standards within priority corridors.

BACKGROUND

Since 2010, the City of Milwaukie has actively worked on innovative ways to improve the pedestrian environment. In 2014, staff presented a proposal about the need for additional improvements, but the city lacked the financial resources. In 2015, staff presented additional information on the accessibility needs of Milwaukie with a concept for a new program.

City Council charged the PSAC with developing a new ADA Transition Plan. Council asked the group to think about more than just ADA compliance by also incorporating safe route to schools, alternate connections and bicycle needs into a city-wide accessibility plan.



PSAC assessed travel corridors throughout Milwaukie, and evaluated the need for updates and improvements to the city-wide pedestrian network. Working closely with the Neighborhood District Associations, PSAC established the location and priority of local projects. Particular focus was given to corridors that facilitate safe routes to schools, connect high-use corridors, and facilities specifically covered by ADA regulations. After 28 public meetings, community feedback, and input from the Citizens Utility Advisory Board (CUAB) about funding options, the plan was developed and presented to Council to accomplish this over the next 25 years.

THE PLAN

SAFE, also known as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, and its proposed projects was formally adopted in July 2016, and includes a funding mechanism that is intended to accomplish its goals. Taking into account project requirements, necessary timeframes, multiple funding scenarios, and a comparison with neighboring cities, CUAB proposed a rate to the City Council.

To create a safe, connected pedestrian environment, the addition of \$0.46 per trip is being recommended to fund the plan. The SAFE charge will be indexed as it is in neighboring cities, which will reduce the initial cost to the customer and adjust for inflation. The charge is based on trips per unit, with the units and trips defined by the property use. For commercial properties, the unit is typically based on square footage; and residential units are the number of dwellings. The expected cost per unit is the product of trips per unit and the \$0.46 per trip SAFE charge. The recommended charge would result in an additional \$4.60 per month for a single family household. When combined with the current street surface maintenance program fee, which was not intended to fund sidewalk and ADA ramp improvements, the total cost for a single family would be \$7.95 per month. Commercial rates vary depending on use and square footage.



These photos show a corridor before and after improvements. The SAFE program is designed to be flexible in implementation, such that the beauty of our community is preserved while access is enhanced.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about Safe Access For Everyone please visit our SAFE web page:

www.milwaukieoregon.gov/engineering/SAFE

Or contact:

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